

JUL 06 2005

June 28, 2005

Neil Hammerschmidt  
APHIS - Animal Plant & Health Inspection Services  
4700 River Road - Unit 43  
Riverdale, Maryland 20737-1231

**Re: National Animal Identification System - Agency Docket #05-015-1**  
**Docket ID # APHIS-2005-0044**

Dear Mr. Hammerschmidt,

Thank you for taking time to read this letter. Your name and address were provided by our local farm bureau.

As beef producers, we have very strong feelings about the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). It is our firm belief that *this system should be maintained and controlled privately by a livestock organization*. There are two reasons for this:

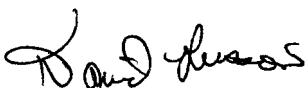
The first and most important one deals with privacy. The information that is to be collected from livestock producers does not need to be in the hands of the government. The data should only be referred to at a national level *if and when* there would be a suspected case of disease. Having the data *available* for such an event is all that is necessary. I can not think of one good reason why the United States thinks it must collect/maintain this raw data.

The second reason why the government should not be involved is because the government is broke. How will the United States Department of Agriculture initially fund the program and how will it be maintained once it is in place?

As usual, the reaction to one instance of any negative event results in over-zealous, far-reaching, un-attainable ideas!

Please consider a conservative, common-sense approach to solving this problem instead of an exaggerated one. We realize the importance of keeping the food supply safe, but there are better ways to achieve the same result. We are asking your organization to explore them.

Sincerely,



David Russow



Julie Russow

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